

CONFIDENTIAL

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letter of 16 October 1970 from the  
Director of Central Intelligence to the  
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**SUPPLEMENT TO  
REPORT NO.**

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1. Vicente Rubiera, Independent Labor Leader and Secretary General of the Federacion de Trabajadores Telefonicos, announced that the Comite Obrero Nacional Independiente (CONI) plans to set up a separate independent labor group and withdraw from the Confederacion de Trabajadores de Cuba (CTC). At the present time, Angel Cofino, Secretary General of the CTC and leader of the CONI, has not presented his resignation to the CTC. [REDACTED] Comment. Cofino's first opportunity to resign will be at a meeting in November 1948. If he does not resign, he cannot be forced to do so, since his appointment as Secretary General of the CTC is valid until the next CTC Congress in the spring of 1949.)
2. A few months ago, the Comision Obrera Nacional (CON) took advantage of Cofino's absence from Cuba by calling a meeting of the CTC Executive Committee and adopting measures which would not have been approved by Cofino. According to source, this was the breaking point between CON and CONI. CON, according to CONI, has sought exclusive control of the CTC, which would be a tragedy, inasmuch as CON represents only the Autentico Party.
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3. It is for these reasons that CONI will leave the CTC and set up its own separate organization. [REDACTED] Comment. During the meeting, Eusebio Mujal was named legal assessor of the CTC and in this capacity attended the first CIT Congress in Lima, Peru. Although Cofino planned to have Cuba attend in an "informative character" only, Mujal took a different stand. CON claims that the CTC delegation to the original CIT Congress at Lima was composed principally of serious anti-Communist labor leaders.)
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4. CONI feels that the anti-Communist CTC has lacked unity from the first moment when Lazaro Pena's Communist CTC was overthrown. Nevertheless, CON has continued to carry on activities exactly like those of the Communists, that is, to place its members in high political office in order to gain control of labor. Eusebio Mujal, leader of CON, is senator and Emilio Suri Castillo and six other CON leaders are representatives, which gives Mujal a block of seven in the lower house. On the other side, according to source, are such men as CONI's Angel Cofino and Vicente Rubiera who have remained independent labor leaders.

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5. CON, according to CONI, started this activity as early as August 1947, when the anti-Communist CTC was first organized. Cofino, who eliminated many of the proposed office personnel who were opposed to him, concentrated on defeating the Communists and on trying to gain control at the expense of Mujal and his CON group.
- C-3 6. CON declares that Angel Cofino, Ignacio Gonzalez Tellechea, Jose Ensenat Polit, Guillermo Kestre, Vicente Rubiera, Orlando Clua Martinez, Manuel Zorrilla, and Pablo Burgos Montana are all former Communists and are now officials of the CTC. In view of their previous history, according to CON, it is possible that CONI may come to an agreement with the Communist labor group at any time.
7. CON claims that CONI maintains close contact with several pro-Communist labor syndicates such as the telephone group, in which organization it backs Javier Lazcano (Ortodoxo), who is outspokenly pro-Communist. CON states that the Accion Revolucionaria Guiteras (ARG) is united with the Peronista movement and that the ARG has succeeded in controlling some of the important syndicates.
- 25X1A ~~CONFIDENTIAL~~ Comment. ARG, which has been tied in with CONI in recent labor matters, is making a serious attempt to take over Cuban labor. The assistance they have received from Argentina has been of great help to them. Most of their leaders are former Communists who were expelled from the party and are today called "Trotskyists".)
8. According to Suri Castillo, Financial Secretary of the sugar syndicate, CON is proven anti-Communist, but has had little success as Cofino has requested all local syndicates not to send any money to Financial Secretary Castillo. Instead, they allegedly retain the money and it eventually reaches CONI. ARG is moving into the maritime syndicate, and in the railroad syndicate, Ricardo Rodriguez is working very closely with Jose Maria Perez, the Communist leader of the old Communist CTC Omnibus Aliados syndicate.

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